

Hawaii MARINE

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Memorials honor the fallen

31st MEU holds ceremony in Iraq

Cpl. Matthew R. Jones

31st MEU

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq — Heads bowed, tears flowed, taps played and Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit remembered 34 fallen Marines and Sailors during a somber ceremony.

The memorial service was held for the 30 Marines and one Sailor whose lives were lost in a tragic helicopter accident near Ar Rutbah Jan. 26, and three lost during the battle for Fallujah in November 2004.

The fallen Marines were assigned to Company C, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 31st MEU and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

"We lost a lot of good men," said Lt. Col. Michael R. Ramos, battalion commander, BLT 1/3. "Men who will not go home and see newborn children. Men who will not go home and tell war stories. Men who made a difference."

The Marines were veterans of numerous fire-

fighths and had fought valiantly during the Multi-National Force's battle for the hostile city of Fallujah.

"When we left Fallujah, I was confident the company would accomplish our mission," said Capt. Thomas M. Tennant, company commander, C Co. "I just never imagined we would have to do it without twenty-seven of our brothers."

The unit was traveling to help secure safe polling stations in the small town of Ak Ashat, in the western region of the Al Anbar province when their helicopter crashed.

"The Marines who died in the crash wrote a new chapter in our Corps' history," said Tennant.

The Marines had fought to free the citizens of Fallujah and were preparing to ensure a safe place for free elections to take place when they were killed.

"We will remember what these men did," added Ramos. "We will honor them; we will take care of the families; and we will tell the world about the difference they made."

Emotions at home burn deep for the lost

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Combat Correspondent

Students, friends, family and service members gathered in front of the Pacific War Memorial Feb. 3, for a candlelight vigil in remembrance of the fallen Marines and Sailor from 1st Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment.

While the setting sun cast a somber glow on the crowd, reflecting the mood of the evening's ceremony, evening colors played in the distance, and the first tears of the night's event could be seen welling up in the eyes of loved ones.

Students from Kailua Intermediate, Akahi Elementary and Kalaheo High Schools passed out small white candles and miniature American flags. Some individuals paid their respects to the fallen service members with flowers, teddy bears and rosaries while others simply held onto loved ones, embracing the solemn peacefulness of the evening.

"I don't think you could have asked for a better evening," said Lt. Ronald C. Nordan, Chaplain, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. "Everything just fell into place, and the event ran very smoothly."



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Colonel Jeffery J. Patterson, commanding officer, 3rd Marine Regiment, lights candles to recognize Marines lost in Iraq during the Candlelight Vigil at the Pacific War Memorial, Feb. 3rd.

Nordan said that he saw the event as a gesture from the community toward the military service members in Hawaii.

"I don't think the intent was for the night to be a military event," said the Washington, D.C. native. "I believe it was a way for members of the community to show the military they sup-

See VIGIL, A-7

Mokapu Elementary walks to pay their respects

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Combat Correspondent

Approximately 260 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students and teachers from Mokapu Elementary School joined together and walked from their school to the Pacific War Memorial, Friday, to pay their respects to fallen MCB Hawaii Marines.

The walk, inspired by teachers and parents during a meeting held the week prior, allowed parents, teachers and students to recognize and honor those who are helping to defend the country, as well as the fallen heroes from the community, according to Larry Biggs, principal of Mokapu Elementary School.

"We are very grateful that we are able to demon-

strate our recognition in this way, and I think the children needed something like this as a way to help them cope with the current situation," said Biggs, a native of De Moines, Iowa. "We also owe a debt of gratitude to Watanabe Flowers for donating the 260 de-thorned roses for the children to lay at the monument."

As the teachers and children arrived at the memorial, each paid tribute to the Marines who gave the ultimate sacrifice for freedom by placing a rose at the base of the monument. Navy Chaplain, Lt. Daniel C. Whitaker, assigned to the MCB Hawaii Chapel talked with the children about the history of the Pacific War Memorial and included some encouraging words about the purpose of the service members' sacrifice to protect America's freedoms.



Capt. Burrell D. Parmar

Marines of Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn, 3rd Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit pay the final respects to their fallen comrades who died in the Jan. 26 CH-53E crash near Ar Rutbah, Iraq. The Marines also honored three other 1/3 members who were killed in the battle of Fallujah.



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Navy Lt. Daniel C. Whitaker speaks to students from Mokapu Elementary School about what it means to give your life for freedom and what it means to the service members fighting overseas.

Webb speaks at lecture series

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Combat Correspondent

Marines, Sailors and family members packed into the Base Theater Tuesday, to hear best-selling author, journalist, Vietnam veteran and former Secretary of the Navy, James Webb speak about his past experiences in the military, as well as his current stance on the War on Terrorism.

"I feel as though the Marines have conducted themselves in an exemplary way," said Webb, a St. Joseph, Mo. native, "but our focus needs to be on the War on Terrorism, and I believe our presence in Iraq is detracting from that."

Webb explained further that his great worry is not the moral aspect, but the fact that the military's presence in Iraq is creating a "strategic mousetrap" that is tying up nearly 80 percent of the military forces our nation has.

Once he had expressed his concerns, he opened the floor for any questions from the audience.

Service members focused many of their questions on the military presence overseas in areas such as North Korea, China and Iran.

They also asked about former foreign dictators such as Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. One Marine even brought up his concern that Webb had not touched upon the influence of "9-11" on our current situation in Iraq.

"There is no doubt 9-11 changed everything," Webb agreed. "It is the circumstances that followed that I believe could have been planned out in a more strategic manner."

When asked about the insurgent that was killed by a Marine in one of the most controversial military actions caught on tape by a reporter in Iraq, Webb, as a journalist himself, explained his ideology on behalf of the reporter.

"As a journalist, it was his duty to report



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, welcomes author and former SecNav James Webb to the PWMLS Tuesday.

what he had seen," he said. "If he hadn't he could have been held accountable for not doing his job."

Webb, a very outspoken, highly regarded individual received a standing ovation from

See WEBB, A-8

3/3 Marines donate to Afghan Police

Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Combined Joint Task Force 76

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, has been working closely with the Afghan National Police to increase their proficiency and capabilities.

Recently, the Marines were able to extend an extra hand to the ANP, donating a new pickup truck to help the police perform their important missions around the province.

"The Afghan National Police have been outstanding in helping us," said 1st Lt. Justin Bellman, India Co. executive officer, adding, "We're here to help them as they work, locally, to maintain peace and provide a secure environment for the citizens of Kunar Province."

In their new vehicle, the ANP can now respond more quickly to reports of illegal activity, such as timber smuggling, as well as transport the confis-

See 3/3, A-8

NEWS BRIEFS

HMH-463 Post and Relief

HMH-463 will have a post and relief ceremony on the flightline in front of Hangar 102 at 2 p.m. Thursday. Sgt. Maj. S. S. Compton will be relinquishing his post to the incoming sergeant major Sgt. Maj. K. Villalino, who is currently attached to Radio Battalion.

National Prayer Breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast will be held on Feb. 24 at Anderson Dining Facility, Building 1089. Col. Richard C. Roten, deputy commander, MCB Hawaii will be the guest speaker. The cost for the breakfast is \$1.90. Doors will be opened at 6 a.m. The program will begin at 6:30 a.m.

Repaving Project Changes Date

Nimitz Road and the BOQ parking lot will be repaved beginning at the end of February. The project is scheduled to be completed sometime in March.

Information on start and completion times and dates, as well as alternate routes, will be published as they become available.

For questions or concerns regarding this project, contact Peggy Hunnings at 257-2171, ext.262.

Trenching may cause Traffic Delays

Trenching excavation will be installing electrical conduits will be on the grassy area between the sidewalk, from 2512 Lawrence Rd. to the intersection of Manning Street and Lawrence Road. Traffic flow in this area will be affected during the execution of this work. Please allow for traffic delays. Traffic will be altered to one lane with traffic flag persons on both ends of the construction area from until April 30 during the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines will be stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 5 p.m., beginning Tuesday.

A Camp Smith site will be set up in Lot 11 near the PMO building. The site will be open every other Wednesday, , with the next being on Feb. 16, from 12 to 5 p.m.

Bring your aluminum cans, glass and plastic beverage containers with “HI 5” markings, empty and uncrushed, to load into the automated machines. Receive a voucher redeemable on the spot.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters to the Editor

The *Hawaii Marine* welcomes comments for the “Letters to the Editor” section. Letters should be clear and concise. The *Hawaii Marine* staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided.

E-Mail: editor@hawaiimarine.com, with “Letters to the Editor” in the subject line.

Mail: Public Affairs Office
Letters to the Editor
Bldg. 216, Box 63002
MCB Hawaii 96863

Fax: 808-257-2511

USO Seeks Care Package Sponsors

The United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO) is enlisting support of individuals around the world to support the troops through Operation USO Care Package. These packages are being delivered to members of the U.S. Armed Forces deployed around the world to show them they have not been forgotten and to provide a touch of home.

For more information, visit www.usocares.org.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Lt. Col Loren D. Barney

Base Inspector

The Commanding General has received inquiries in regards posting “welcome home” signs aboard MCB Hawaii for our returning warriors. As a reminder to all, the following information explains where these signs may be hung, how long they can remain up and what is considered appropriate content.

Base Order 11012.2A is the existing directive for signs aboard the base. The Order states that units and individuals may post signs two days prior to the unit’s or group’s



Sgt. Alexis Mulero

Welcome home and other signs are subject to regulations by Base Order 11012.2A and need approval from the Base Inspector’s Office.

arrival, in the following manner:

- On unit buildings and family quarters — No limit in number. Personalized signs for individuals or small groups are authorized.

- On the MCCA Service Station (gas lanes) fence — Limited to two per unit. No personal signs for individuals or small groups are authorized.

- On the fence across from the Temporary Lodging Facility — Limited to two per organization. No personal signs are allowed at this location.

Between the time that the Base Order was revised last August and now, MCCA has begun construction on the new 7-Day/Convenience Store complex. Due to this construction the permanent fence noted above (across from the TLF) that fronts “G” Street was torn down, and a temporary fence has been erected adjacent to the Package Store to cover the construction site. MCCA has approved this location (approximately 325 feet along “G” Street and another 90 feet that parallels 3rd Street) for temporary signs. This area can be used until the temporary fence is taken down late this coming summer.

The fence at Riseley Field, across from the Semper Fit Center, (approximately 240 feet in length) that fronts “G” Street is also an approved location for special-event, school signs and “welcome home” signs even

though the Base Order does not specifically state this fact. This is the preferred posting location for these types of signs. No personal signs are allowed at this location.

A change to the Base Signs Order is forthcoming that directs returning unit and individual “welcome home” signs to be removed no later than three days following the return of the main body of troops. Because “welcome home” signs are often made of varying materials, which results in a wide range of durability, the unit or individual is responsible for maintaining the “welcome home” signs while posted. The Base Inspector will remove signs that do not conform to these regulations or are in ill repair. Any sign removed may be picked up at the Base Inspector’s office in Building 216.

The Base Order does not address, specifically, what can and cannot be on the signs. However, we ask that the content of all “welcome home” signs posted for viewing by our base community be kept in good taste, that is, no sexual content or indecent language and pictures.

Lastly, the Order states that the Base Inspector is the approving authority for all miscellaneous, temporary and information signs. Please stop by the Base Inspector’s office for a simple approval anytime you, your unit or organization would like to post one of these signs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Old Corps traditions and Gyrene Lingo

Our naval terminology has varied little in 229 years, whereas Marine Lingo changes with every graduation from boot camp. A Vietnam-era Marine reader wrote of his concern for what he perceived as a loss of tradition and a corruption of naval terminology. I ask, “When was the last time you heard someone say the word Gyrene or Gung Ho? Do you know what a John Wayne is or a P38? Have you ever, in the last 40 years, seen a Marine with a swagger stick?”

Things change, Sgt. Maj Frank E. Pulley former Depot sergeant major at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, used to say. “Staff NCOs are the keepers of tradition and the masters of Marine know how.”

My fellow Marine, rest assured we have not lost our way; however, the Corps evolves. I sympathize with you and mourn the loss of some of our old ways, but the “good ole days” are gone. Have you read some of the things these new Marines are writing? I received a message from one of my lance corporals. It was written in form that so confused me that I thought I needed a “shackle sheet” to make sense of it. (If you’re asking what a “shackle sheet” is, it was a sheet used for decryption.) Have you eaten an MRE (meals ready to eat) lately?

We use to have the standard C-Rat’s which were converted into the standard 12 MRE’s, well not anymore the “Five Fingers of Death” are gone. I’m just happy to find a pound cake every now and then. By the way, do you remember how many holes were in a C-Rat cracker?

I too am a second generation Marine with a nephew in the Corps. Last year, I had the honor of attending my nephew’s (Lance Cpl. William Douglas Jr.) graduation from boot camp. At his graduation, I learned a few things about myself; my father, a Former Marine; and my family — all Marines and one (Navy) Corpsman, “AKA a Marine.” We, with all sincerity, truly love our Country and Corps.

When you see a battalion of new Marines, you want them to be trained just as good you were. You want quality leadership for them; you want the best equipment and, most of all, you want them to be able to maintain that tradition of soldierly virtue

and excellence the Marine Corps has become known for. In these new Marines we see the tangible manifestation of everything we hold dear — our family, our country and our future — in other words, our national treasure. My fellow Marine, fear not, you have set the example, you have made your mark and held the standard. It really doesn’t matter if we “re-up or ship over,” what matters is our Honor, Courage and Commitment and the continuation of our Country.

We are the keepers of tradition and the masters of Marine know how. The torch has been passed. The lingo may sound different, but it still means the same.

**Semper Fi,
Master Sgt. Sheldon A. Comer,
Deputy Base Inspector
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay**

Past, present prompts emotions

My wife, Flo, and I were surprised to see a picture of the bouquets, which my wife, father-in-law, Joseph, and I, had placed on the Marine Memorial at Kaneohe Marine Base. We wanted to give our respect to the men who had died in that crash in Iraq and of course all of “My Troopers,” who have given their lives and those that were wounded and serving in Iraq. I know all Americans are doing so.

My wife suggested we make eight bouquets of roses and anthuriums, with pictures (laminated), of the soldiers attached to the bouquets and all tied with yellow ribbons. Staff Sgt. Ronna Wyland (former Hawaii Marine Press Chief) had written our names in her book, and I wanted to explain why we were so enthusiastic in doing this. I am sure many Americans have a similar story to ours.

My father fought in Guadalcanal during

WWII. I was with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam (1969), my son (Matthew) is a Captain in the Army on active duty and slated to go to Iraq early next year. He was supposed to be in Iraq this month, but his mission was changed. Another son (Tyler) had just got out of the military on a medical discharge; he was in the Air Force. My neighbor (George Okoji) who had came with us, was in intermediate school when he saw the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. The Japanese pilot had waved to him to get out of the way as they proceeded to Pearl Harbor via Ewa. After the war, he (George) had gone into the Army and was stationed in Japan. He attended the trials of General Tojo and the rest of the captured high-ranking officers. During the trial, he saw another high-ranking Japanese officer stand and slapped General Tojo in the head.

George, also, rendered General Douglas McArthur a salute, six feet from himself. He had an opportunity to see “history in the making,” as you say. George, also, has a son (Brian) in the army, who had just returned from Iraq a month ago.

This is why many Americans, and we, pay tribute to our fallen soldiers. We are a part of them, and we “feel” as if they were our own Sons and Daughters.

**Sincerely,
Nelson W.Y. Wong
United States Army-Retired (MSG)
100TH Battalion, 442nd Infantry**



Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland

Because of past experience or current affiliations, many Americans feel close to the Marines and Sailor who perished in Jan. 26.

Word on the street

If you could go on a trip anywhere for Valentine’s Day, where would it be and why?



Sgt. Anthony Pamintuan
Landing Support
Transportation Support
Company, CSSG-3

“I would go to my wife’s home country of Thailand. She hasn’t been home in quite a few years.”



Sgt. Billy Hurst
Rifleman
Fox Company, 2/3

“I would go to Arkansas to be with my wife.”



**Petty Officer 2nd Class
Chris Lemaster**
Avionics Technician, VP-47

“I would go back to Ohio, because my Valentine is there.””



1st Lt. Jacob Jones
Artillery Officer
Bravo Battery, 1/12

“I guess I would go to London, just because I really liked it there.”

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**HAWAII MARINE, BOX 63062, BUILDING 216,
MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863
E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIIMARINE.COM
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Hardening up

MCB Hawaii prepares itself for terrorist threats

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

After the U.S. was attacked, Sept. 11, 2001, a shock wave of uncertainty traveled from coast to coast amongst government, security and law-enforcement agencies forcing them to double-check and reinforce their current strategic anti-terrorism plans.

Because many organizations decided their current security plans weren't equipped well enough, financially, they developed new ways to look at the prevention of terrorism without necessarily increasing budget or personnel. According to Jay Reardon, anti-terrorism and force protection officer here, the Anti-Terrorism Department is focused on personnel training, first-responder development, and increasing the overall security of the installation by making MCB Hawaii a "hard target."

Anti-terrorism measures, according to Reardon, start with an average civilian, who is not usually affiliated with any sort of security profession whatsoever, noticing that something doesn't seem quite right.

"The most simple form of anti-terrorism is just the everyday citizen opening their eyes a little more to notice something that might be a bit off, and letting it be known," explained Reardon. "Something as simple as an unattended delivery truck or a group of unfamiliar people should set off an alarm inside the average citizen."

Reardon went on to say that reporting these unusual cir-

cumstances could do more for the security of this nation and could do more for this base than any amount of money that could be spent on increased hi-tech security gadgets"

The Department of Defense requires all units at the battalion and squadron level to keep all Marines, family members above the age of 14, and civilian employees Anti-terrorism Force, Protection Level 1 trained.

"The training covers everything from the history of terrorism to how to act in a hostage situation and individual protective measures," said Reardon. "Since there are only a certain amount of people working in the security and law-enforcement field, the chances of one of these people, who does this for a living, detecting terrorism activity is very slim."

The current perspective is that anti-terrorism measures are evaluated and developed during large-scale anti-terrorism events.

In an effort to increase the awareness and reinforce proper protocol directed at first responders, Reardon and other participants from local base and federal agencies conducted an exercise at the end of 2004 that focused on anti-terrorism tactics. Some of the scenarios included simple situations that may occur on base.

The 2004 Anti-Terrorism Exercise was an eight-hour series of events that involved the Provost Marshal's Office, Waterfront Operations, Explosives Ordnance Disposal and the Federal Fire Department. The scenario included having base personnel practice the implementation of typical protocol for atypical situations.

The ATEX covered waterborne intrusion, suspicious abandoned vehicles, the discovery of a possible weapon of mass destruction, and hostage negotiations.

"Overall the event went extremely well," admitted Petty Officer 1st Class Cesar Kuong, leading petty officer at Waterfront Operations. "The exercise allowed us to put into action the steps we are ready to take, should a situation arise along the coast of MCB Hawaii."

Once aboard the base, the mock-terrorist activity involved the planting of several suspicious hazardous materials, which were placed at different locations around base.

"The actors that portrayed the people discovering these items did a very realistic job," said Bill Minnie, fire protection specialist with Base Safety. "There was one episode when a victim encountered a container and was overcome with fumes. They played the role perfectly and responded much like any normal person might. I was very impressed."

Once an item like this was discovered, several base organizations were gathered to resolve the situation, including EOD. When they arrived at the scene, the EOD team had the opportunity during the event to test out a variety of new gadgetry for the removal of explosive devices.

"The new tools that we used during the exercise included the Segway Human Transport, the Remote Ordnance Neutralization System, and the NABCO Total Containment System," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Murphy, EOD officer for MCB Hawaii.

The Segway HT is a modified version of the popular two-wheeled electric transportation device that is more and more commonly used by tourists, businessmen and women in metropolitan areas.

"The Segway HT allows our Marines, wearing heavy protective gear, to easily travel the often distanced areas established around a hazardous site while keeping them from getting fatigued," said Murphy. "Once in place, we use the mechanical robot RONS

to physically extract the hazardous item and place it in the NABCO TCV. This exercise provided us an excellent opportunity to field test this equipment."

At the conclusion of the exercise, the anti-terrorism department had more data from which to evaluate the base's overall security, law enforcement and intelligence posture. Citing the legislation stated in the Patriot Act, Reardon takes a serious approach to the differences between law enforcement and intelligence.

"I am confident, that no matter how much reform is made to our intelligence community, we are not going to have the specific and timely intelligence warning of a terrorist attack, because we will never have the necessary human intelligence — that being what a specific person's intentions are," said Reardon, also a retired

Terrorist Abu Seyard, meaning Father of Hunter, played by NCIS Special Agent in Charge Randall Hughes, uses Cpl. Harmony Lazore as a shield during hostage negotiations.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey P. Middleton

Marines responding to the anti-terrorism exercise approach a hostage situation carefully and well protected.



Above — RONS belongs to Explosives Ordnance Disposal. The robot can be used to break the window of a vehicle to inspect and remove any suspect devices inside.

Below — Marines responding to the anti-terrorism exercise work out a solid plan before making any moves.



Playing a hostage, Cpl. Harmony Lazore, bandsman from Key West, Fla., sits in a holding room during an anti-terrorism exercise.

Mud flies on Kaneohe Bay

CAC lends helping hand to environment

Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards
Combat Correspondent

Roaring diesel engines, loud splashes and the sight of billowing smoke broke the morning calm here aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay Tuesday and Wednesday. Thirty-eight Marines manning six amphibious assault vehicles from Third Marine Regiments’ Combat Assault Company tore through the Nuupia Ponds Wildlife Management Area during the 23rd annual “Mud Ops” in support of the nesting season for the Hawaiian Stilt or Aeo.

It was first noticed in the late ‘70s that the stilt were following the AAVs as they traveled along the northern shoreline of the ponds while making their daily transit to the ocean via Kailua Bay. The route of the AAVs was altered to protect the diminishing population of the Hawaiian Stilt.

According to Dr. Diane Drigot, senior natural resource management specialist with MCB Hawaii base environmental, subsequent to that discovery, the Hawaiian stilt population in the wetlands was about 60. Now, 23 years later, the Nuupia Ponds boast 160, amounting to nearly 10 percent of the state-wide population of this species of bird found only in Hawaii.

The best place for these birds to nest is on top of mud-flat mounds in wetlands such as Nuupia Ponds, according to Drigot. An abundance of invasive plants there, such as mangrove and pickle weed, literally crowd the birds out of their nesting habitat.

“The Hawaiian Stilts like to nest on island-like mud mounds sculptured into the mudflats by the churning of the AAV tracks,” said Drigot. “The plowing action forms a checkerboard



Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Marines with Third Marine Regiment’s, Combat Assault Company, Amphibious Assault Vehicle Platoon make tracks around the Nuupia Ponds Wildlife Management Area Wednesday as part of their annual “Mud Ops” program to aide in the nesting habits of the endanagered Hawaiian Stilt or Aeo.

mosaic of mud mounds surrounded by protective “moats” of water. The watery barrier around each mud mound discourages access by four-legged predators i.e. mongooses, rats and cats.”

Nesting in these mud mounds assures that the newly hatched chicks have a place to hide from predators and easy access to food and water.

Since the early ‘80s, under the watchful supervision of the base environmental staff, Third Marines’ Combat Assault Company has been holding its annual “Mud Ops” in the Nuupia Ponds to aide in the nesting and repopulation of the endangered Hawaiian Stilt,

or Aeo in Hawaiian.

Drigot describes this union between the AAVs and the birds as a win-win situation. The birds benefit from it because it eases the burden of nesting, and the Marines get an invaluable training evolution.

“For us, it is an opportunity to go out and do some driver training and to practice getting unstuck,” said Capt. Robert A. Kleinpaste, company commander, Combat Assault Company.

Making tracks in Nuupia Ponds offers hands-on training that can be extremely beneficial for the Marines who could possibly find themselves deployed to Iraq fighting the War on Terror.

“It gives us an opportunity to work in conditions other than solid ground, sand and water,” said Sgt. Matthew M. Joseph, headquarters section leader, with Combat Assault Company AAV platoon. “While we are out there it gives us the chance to practice recovery operations. If a vehicle does break down or get stuck in sand, water or mud, it gives the crew an idea of what to do if they do get stuck in an area. It also gives us the opportunity to practice using multiple vehicles to tow a vehicle out of harms way.”

According to Kleinpaste, a lot of the southern areas of Iraq have hard-packed dirt on top. Once you start moving heavy vehicles in those areas, however, you start pulling up a bunch of mud. “There are even areas that you don’t realize are mud areas until you’re stuck. In Iraq, there was a mechanized company that actually got mired down when they were doing an attack,” explained Kleinpaste. “They received

some hostile fire, so this is pretty invaluable training for them to do, in case they ever have to do it in a combat situation.”



Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

The Hawaiian Stilt or Aeo, pictured here is the focus for the “Mud Ops” program. Since the inception of the program, the population at Nuupia Ponds has grown from 60 to 160, making up 10 percent of the state-wide population of this endangered bird found only in Hawaii.

Marines and natural resources can coexist

Richard M. Saltzman
NAVFAC Pacific Public Affairs Office

Who is one of the best friends of the endangered birds and other native creatures at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH)?

Take a bow, Dr. Diane Drigot, MCBH Senior Natural Resource Management Specialist.

Drigot is not on the NAVFAC Pacific payroll, but she is definitely an indispensable member of the Marine Corps and Resident Officer in Charge of Construction (ROICC) MCBH environmental team.

She was instrumental in securing funds for the latest wildlife improvement project at Ulupa`u Crater, an extinct volcano that hosts both an active combat weapons training range and a thriving colony of federally protected red-footed booby seabirds.

The project was designed in such a way as to reduce brushfires risks that threaten sustainability of both combat weapons training and the birds’ roosting and nesting habitat there. “The role of ROICC MCBH in implementing this project in an impact area is key, and the project had many challenges,” said Drigot.

“The success of this project to sustain ‘both bullets and boobies’ is one of the best examples of how combat training and conservation missions can be compatible.

“It showcases how that success is dependent on a good teamwork relationship among the



DRIGOT

trainers, explosive ordnance removal personnel, natural resources management staff, the regulators, small business, and the public, who depend upon us to carry out our mission in such a way that also protects these ‘public trust’ resources (such as the booby birds).”

Drigot is assigned to the MCBH Environ-

mental Department whose mission is to ensure that Marine Corps activities follow natural resources and environmental protection laws.

Throughout her 22-year-long career at MCBH, she has played a leadership role in showing how the strategic interests of military base leaders, protection of endangered species, and exemplary natural resources management can coexist.

She stresses that the success of these efforts is community-based. Over these years, she has coordinated thousands of Marines, civilian volunteers, and local children in educational or service projects to help implement environmental enhancement projects.

“Her tireless public involvement has resulted in improved community awareness and support of our ongoing ROICC construction

efforts,” said Dave Robbins, ROICC MCBH.

Drigot explained the threefold mission of military land managers. “Federal law requires that every federal land-management agency, including the military, play a leadership role as conservation stewards of that land,” said Drigot. We have our core mission, which is to train fighters for combat.

“And we have a quality of life mission, which is to take care of the off-duty needs of our war fighters, their families, and to allow public access, where possible, to these public trust resources.”

In 2001, Drigot authored her approach to natural resources management in an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for MCB Hawaii to satisfy environmental protection law requirements. Federal law requires this document be developed and implemented by all military bases with significant natural resources under their management responsibility.

The document is prepared in concert with the stakeholders: Trainers, the public and the regulators, such as federal and state wildlife protection agencies. Commanding generals and admirals of all military bases must sign the INRMP, pledging to implement the plan.

“Once the systematic plan is approved and signed, it provides a road map for determining natural resource management funding priorities,” she said.

Drigot was recently recognized with many

local and national honors: from the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board as Kaneohe Citizen of the Year in 2003, from the Hawaii State legislature in 2004 for exemplary community service, and by the Hawaii Audubon Society for “energetic and innovative leadership.”

Also last year, Drigot was recognized by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Oahu Council for “services rendered to the club, council, and the Hawaiian community at large,” and she was a national finalist for a Service to America Medal honoring the nation’s top public servants.

Dr. Drigot, please accept the well-deserved recognition and take a bow.

MCB Hawaii Environmental Mission Statement

To carry out the functions of compliance, pollution prevention, conservation, installation restoration, and training, education, and outreach at MCBH such that we contribute to the combat readiness of our Marines, and protect human health and the environment.

Returning from the war zone

Marines benefit from debriefing

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

Marines in war zones willingly put rounds down range and take rounds. They fight through dirt and fatigue and hunger and thirst, knowing they are doing what is right for their country. People read newspaper accounts about them and their countless efforts to keep peace. They are strong when they go in, but what happens when they come out?

For the many who make it back, life isn’t the same. Something as simple as a slamming door or a plane flying overhead can create a fear like nothing a person who has never been there can ever describe. For those, there is a one-hour deployment debrief course. This class gives Marines, returning from a deployment, the opportunity to talk with other Marines who can relate to what they have gone through. Here, they can speak their minds about their feelings and the fears that overtake them, even while they are safe at home with friends and family.

“Doors slamming. If something broke and it

made a loud crash, it would give me that bad feeling, and it still does,” admitted Cpl. Justin R.M. Hecock, explosive detector dog handler, Provost Marshall’s Office, Headquarters Battalion. “One time a tree branch fell beside me, and I nearly had a heart attack.”

Hecock spent seven months in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq, with his dog, Baro, who had been on four deployments at the time that Hecock first took him on.

“My dog, Fax, had passed away just before the deployment so I took on Baro,” explained Hecock. “He was great out there. He knew what had to get done, and he did it.”

Upon returning to Hawaii, Hecock took part in the debrief course which is given to all Marines returning from deployment.

“The main points that were covered by the course were learning to recognize the key signs of having flashbacks, how to recognize if you are becoming aggressive from those flashbacks, and how to calm yourself down if those memories occur,” said Hecock. “I was in a class with about seven other Marines who returned, and everyone shared what bothered them most

since being back.”

Although the class allowed Marines to vent their problems and find ways to deter potential problems, there are changes that Hecock said could be made to the course.

“Part of the problem was that you had seven Marines that had been there, and about eight others were listening to you, watching you, but had never been there to actually understand you,” said Hecock. “There was a chaplain there, but I honestly think it would have at least been better to have a “shrink” there, instead. Or even at least someone to listen to you who was there; who can relate to what you were saying; who really saw what was going on over there.”

The initial adjustment to going back to work on base is another problem that some Marines encountered, according to Hecock.

“I ended up working the day after I returned from the deployment,” said Hecock. “After being through what I had been through, then having to be polite to people, instructing them where to park — that part was hard for me personally.”

Cpl. Kathleen M. Lynch, postal clerk, Headquarters Battalion, spent a deployment in Iraq for six and a half months and took part in three debrief classes, one in Iraq, one at Camp Pendleton, and one here at MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

“Compared to the two that I took before K-Bay, the one here was actually different,” said Lynch. “The ones out there were more vague on what they explained to you. The one here actually spoke to you more one-on-one, and amongst your peers as opposed to too many different ranks.”

Lynch said she thought that the course should be mandatory for anyone coming back from a big deployment.

“I think even if someone doesn’t have symptoms [post traumatic stress disorder,] I think they should attend the course,” Lynch commented. “People may not want to speak with a psychiatrist after such an ordeal, but it might help to speak with others who have been through the same situation.”

United States and foreign specialists search for, recover and identify remains of Americans missing from America’s conflicts. MIA Accounting Command forensic analysis teams recently re-deployed to Hickam AFB, from Southeast Asia. JPAC teams assisted in the Combined Support Force of Operation Unified Assistance, the U.S. military humanitarian disaster relief efforts in South East Asia.

JPAC teams’ planned missions for this year will continue as scheduled despite the additional undertaking to assist tsunami victims. One JPAC deployment could include three or more operations within a single mis-

sion, and JPAC will conduct approximately 27 missions throughout 2005.

“JPAC teams were deployed early based upon their unique capabilities; however, as the international efforts continued to become more robust, military support requirements became more refined and JPAC was able to adjust accordingly,” said a CSFOUA spokesperson. “Like the rest of the military support to this disaster relief, JPAC brought what might be needed and scaled back as requirements were defined.”

JPAC is well known for its work to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation’s past conflicts.

JPAC forensic team returns from Thailand

Press Release
Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

HICKAM AFB, Hawaii — “Three Joint POW and photographers deployed with very short notice,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Henshaw, noncommissioned, officer-in-charge for Forensic Analysis Team Two. “They performed difficult tasks with extreme professionalism.”

While deployed to Phuket, Thailand, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command teams, along with approximately 30 other international forensic teams assisted in identification operations.

“Despite the worldwide scope of

the Central Identification Laboratory mission and more than 30 years of experience in the recovery and identification of human remains,” Dr. Andrew Tyrrell, laboratory manager and forensic anthropologist, said, “This is the largest humanitarian forensic effort we have been involved in to date.”

Henshaw said that he was honored that his team was able to bring closure to some of the families of the tsunami victims.

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became more refined and JPAC was able to adjust accordingly,” said a CSFOUA spokesperson. “Like the rest of the military support to this disaster relief, JPAC brought what might be needed and scaled back as requirements were defined.”

The command deployed teams to previous disasters, including the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon, the Korean Air crash in Guam and the bombing of a Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983.

JPAC is well known for its work to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation’s past conflicts. JPAC personnel, along with other

United States and foreign specialists search for, recover and identify remains of Americans missing from America’s conflicts. MIA Accounting Command forensic analysis teams recently re-deployed to Hickam AFB, from Southeast Asia. JPAC teams assisted in the Combined Support Force of Operation Unified Assistance, the U.S. military humanitarian disaster relief efforts in South East Asia.

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Retired Marine has three sons in Iraq

Sgt. Danielle M. Bacon
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Pictures and plaques line the walls and coins blanket the window sill — each is proof of a truly successful career, but this is not what makes one retiree proud.

Larry A. Johnson, who retired in February 2003 as a colonel after 29 years of active duty, views his sons’ decision to serve their country as one of his biggest sources of pride.

Not only are they serving their country, but also all three are serving in Iraq.

The older two joined the Marine Corps as officers. The youngest, Adam, is a senior airman with the Air Force security forces — similar to the Marine Corps’ military police.

“With Adam’s personality, I told him he would be better served in the Air Force or Coast Guard,” said Johnson, a Maryland native. “He is with the Air Force Expeditionary Wing, guarding prisoners and doing convoy security — an interesting mission for the Air Force.”

Johnson’s oldest, Troy, is a first lieutenant who serves as the deputy camp commander for an Iraqi military tactical assembly area.

Chris, the middle child and also a first lieutenant, is the aide-de-camp to the deputy commander for I Marine Expeditionary Force.

“The interesting thing about this is that they were together for the first time in four years, in Iraq,” said Johnson.

They not only spent the Christmas holidays together in Baghdad, they were also able to speak with their parents during a live interview with CNN.

Johnson said, “I got a call from a CNN anchor person who asked if I wanted to talk to my sons and said to turn on our TV at six-thirty. The boys popped up on the screen at six-thirty on the dot. Then the anchorman from



Photo Courtesy of Johnson Family

Larry A Johnson, a retired Marine colonel living in Hawaii, and his wife Louise got the chance to talk with thier sons, live on CNN. The two Marines and one airman are all serving in Iraq.

Atlanta asked (the boys) if there was anyone special that might be watching this show that they would like to say hello to.”

Unbeknownst to the boys, Johnson and his wife were on the phone waiting to talk with them as they sat at home watching them on the news.

The question to the boys was supposed to be a lead into them saying hello to their mother and father, since none of them are married. Instead, one wanted to say hello to his girlfriend.

“The anchorman said that’s okay. Is there anyone else?” said Johnson, who added that his sons still did not know he was on the line. “So Adam says, ‘Yes, I really miss my Siberian Husky.’”

“The reporter said, ‘That is so not the answer we wanted to here. Well, we have a couple of people in Hawaii ... ‘. Then you could see their faces light up.”

The Johnson family got to talk with each other for about three minutes.

“It was the best Christmas present,” said

Johnson, who understands what it is like to spend time away from home.

Chris explained that while growing up, his father frequently served away from his family.

“Mom sometimes had to bear the brunt of raising three boys,” said Chris, whose mother, Louise, also served all of the services as a registered nurse. “He and my mother are a team, and they worked hand-in-hand to balance our upbringing and turn us into the men we are.”

He added, “The strength of my parents’ marriage is the backbone of our family.”

The Johnson family comes from a long line of service members.

Johnson’s grandfather and father were both in the Navy. His father retired as a chief warrant officer after 30-years.

“Obviously, he would have preferred that I had become a naval officer, but I think he was every bit as proud that I joined the Marine Corps,” said Johnson, who didn’t push his sons to any type of uniform service but rather to just serve their country in some way.

“I went to the Naval Academy because even as a boy my parents raised my brothers and I to respect and value our country, and to pursue some form of public service,” said Chris. “Although he did not treat us like Marines, he raised us with the values that are innate in Marines: discipline, loyalty, honor, judgment, courtesy, pride, initiative, etcetera.”

These values and pride not only filtered down to, but have stayed with his sons.

Chris said, “The day I graduated from the Naval Academy, May 25, 2001, my father commissioned me and my parents put my bars on. In a manner of speaking, the day he put my bars on was the day he passed on the ‘family colors.’ To me, that moment marked the change of command between my father and my brothers and I — the new generation of Marines ... oh, and the airman.”

ANTI-TERROR, From A-3

intelligence officer. “Rather, we are going to have to make our society more resilient to the next attack when it may come. That philosophy is the foundation of anti-terrorism.”

Tasked with ensuring MCB Hawaii is as resilient as possible, Reardon and the Anti-terrorism Department must assume the enemy is always watching.

The Boston, Mass. Native admitted that the first step will to assume that detailed, extensive preoperational surveillance by the enemy has already been conducted on the facility.

“The enemy is going to determine whether the base is a ‘hard’ or ‘soft’ target, he said.”

To make the base more resilient to

attack, several things are being done across the island’s Marine Corps installations to “harden” these targets, according to Reardon. These will include random anti-terrorist measures or RAMs, are implemented to break up the typical schedules of security details and operations.

“Some of these RAMs can be seen, purposefully, and some of them cannot be seen,” said Reardon. “For instance, a shotgun over watch at the front gate at Camp Smith from one a.m. to three a.m. may not be seen, but a random vehicle inspection at the back gate of Kaneohe will be seen.”

What this does, from the eyes of the enemy, according to Reardon, is break the pattern. Doing this changes the typical pattern for patrols and security

measures to keep possible enemy surveillance from gathering solid information of the base’s security. Some of these security concerns, discovered during a Joint Strategic Integrated Vulnerability Assessment in September, can be addressed by purchasing additional equipment.

While the execution of RAMs requires little to no additional cost to the government, the Anti-terrorism Department does procure some higher-tech equipment to enhance MCB Hawaii’s anti-terrorism capability. Simple additions can include spike strips or additional perimeter fences to increase clear-zone distances from the inside perimeter to the civilian property line. More costly additions may include cement and wrought iron barrier walls, \$100,000 hydraulic

barriers, or even X-ray and explosive-detecting trucks to view and “sniff” the contents of incoming traffic aboard the base.

Today, the dangers of terrorism are a fact of contemporary life, but the Anti-terrorism Department at MCB Hawaii is taking action to spread the awareness of anti-terrorism precautions at the individual level, as well as measures being taken at the installation level.

To conduct Anti-terrorism Force Protection Level 1 training online, visit www.pacom.mil/staff/at/attraining.htm. For Pacific Command travel requirements, visit www.pacom.mil/staff/at/athome.htm. For the latest country Force Protection Conditions and threat information, visit www.pacom.mil/staff/at/country_reqts.doc.



VIGIL, From A-1

port everything service members do. I believe the community has always been behind the military, but sometimes it takes a tragic event to be able to express that support. That is what the candlelight vigil was all about.”

After three students sung the National Anthem and those laid to rest were honored with a minute of silence, a touching rendition of Lee Greenwood’s “Proud to be an American” was played on the guitar and sung by one of the students.

“It was really special -- the way that the event came together,” said Gay Jennings, parent community-networking coordinator, Akahi Elementary Schools. “The students wanted to do something for the Marines.”

Jennings went on to say that she had received calls from members of the community who expressed a desire to help. So, preparations were made for a vigil.”

Col. Jeffrey J. Patterson, commanding officer, 3rd Marine Regiment, spoke to the crowd, once the sun had gone down, words of gratitude and encouragement to the students, Marines, family members and general community.

Once his speech ended, the lighting ceremony began with one candle and was passed from person to person until each candle was lit, bringing a close to the event. The candles were then placed next to the flowers and various other gifts around the memorial.

“It definitely brought the military and civilian communities closer together, and I think that is what was intended,” said Nordan. “It is nice to know we live in a community that supports the military -- the way this community has. My heartfelt thanks goes out to all who made the event possible.”

3/3, From A-1

cated weapons caches they frequently seize.

“It gives them the ability to be a quick-reaction force,” said Bellman. “Now, they’re able to take more responsibility for getting out and accomplishing their mission, and they love the truck.”

India Co. Marines have been training the ANP as well as other Afghan forces in setting up “snap” vehicle and entry control points. The Marines have had great success with their impromptu vehicle searches, and they are working to pass on their techniques to the ANP. The Marines, with the importance they place on attention to detail when searching vehicles and people, have proved to be excellent teachers as well.

“We’ll usually have one Marine, one Afghan Police Officer and one Afghan Soldier all working together to search a vehicle when we’re out doing ‘on-the-job-training’ with them,” said Bellman. “It’s been great practice for them, and they’re starting to take the initiative to go out and do it themselves.”

Besides giving the Afghan Police a more visible presence, which has worked to bolster their authority as law-enforcers, the ANP has been extremely successful in seizing weapons.

WEBB, From A-1

the audience. After the ceremony everyone was invited to The Officers’ Club to further discuss topics ranging from the evenings statements to his most current book release, Born Fighting.

“I really want to convey my respect to the Marines here, as well as expressing my concerns about the military strategy overseas,” said Webb. “If I could go back to when I was 22-years-old, I would want nothing more than to be around and lead Marines. It is what this country has trained me to do, and I intend to continue interacting with Marines as long as I can.”



Courtesy Photo


Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines pose with Afghan National Police in front of the vehicle America’s Battalion donated to them in Kunar province, Afghanistan. The vehicle will help the ANP better perform their mission and support security in their province.

“They’ve seized RPGs, improvised explosive devices, even an RPK machine gun,” explained Bellman. “They’ve been a great ally in the war on terror, out here.”

The Afghan National Police, along with other Government of Afghanistan agencies, are con-

tinually assuming more responsibility for the security of the country.

The Marines of America’s Battalion will continue to train with and operate alongside the ANP and ANA as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.



You Drink. You Drive. You Lose.

Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 31 minutes and nonfatally injure someone every two minutes.

— National Highway Traffic Safety Administration